

Resources for Homeowners

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Dear Friends,

Owning

a home should provide more than a place to live. It is an investment in the future, a source of financial security, and for many, it is a hallmark of the American Dream. As Americans put hard-earned dollars into paying a mortgage, I am committed to helping them protect their homes. For over a year, citizens have watched interest rates rise while the housing economy declines, and many Americans are finding it hard to make ends meet as mortgage payments grow. Others see this market uncertainty and are looking for the best ways to invest, grow and protect their homes and resources so that their families can continue to enjoy a high quality of life in the beautiful communities we live in. Here in Congress, I have helped to pass several pieces of legislation that will help homeowners and new homebuyers navigate the market as well as protect their assets.

It is

critically important for Congress to rise to the moment and help Americans in time of financial uncertainty, and I was proud to vote for those bills, all of which passed in the House of Representatives. As your representative, I am dedicated to helping you find the resources you need. I hope that you find the enclosed resource list to be of use for you, your friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

RESOURCES FOR HOMEOWNERS

Prepared by the Office of Congresswoman Ellen O. Tauscher, 10th CD
GOVERNMENT & NONPROFIT RESOURCES
HOPE NOW Alliance 888-995-HOPE

The

HOPE NOW Alliance provides a variety of resources for preserving homeownership in the face of rising foreclosure rates including HOPE for Homeowners, a toll-free national hotline that offers free foreclosure prevention and counseling advice from a third party, HUD-certified, not-for-profit network of counseling agencies and loan servicers dedicated to helping homeowners avoid foreclosure. www.HOPENOW.com.

The Federal Housing Administration 800-CALL-FHA

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) can help to provide loans for new homebuyers and for homeowners who wish to refinance their mortgages. In addition, the FHASecure program is a refinancing option that gives credit-worthy homeowners who

are in default following a loan reset a second chance with an FHA-insured loan.

Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) 888-302-NACA

NACA
is a national non-profit advocacy and homeownership organization.
NACA's Refinance Program offers new loans to eligible homeowners with unaffordable mortgages.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 800-569-4287

HUD provides a variety of resources for homeowners at risk of foreclosure. The Department funds free housing counseling services throughout the country. HUD offers free or low-cost on home buying, renting, default and foreclosure prevention, as well as resources to help with expenses like utility bills. HUD-approved counselors can help homeowners understand the law and their options, organize their finances, and represent borrowers in negotiations with their lenders if this assistance is needed.

LEGAL RESOURCES
California's Attorney General (916) 445-9555

Home
owners who suspect that they have been a victim of fraud, misleading information, or other deceptive practices should contact the California Attorney General's office. The office investigates complaints and can sue lenders and other mortgage originators for alleged illegal behavior.

National Association of Consumer Advocates 202-452-1989

The National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) is a nationwide organization of more than 1,000 attorneys who represent and have represented hundreds of thousands of consumers victimized by fraudulent, abusive and predatory business practices. NACA attorneys have represented thousands of victims of predatory lending practices. The legal services are provided by legal service lawyers and private practice attorneys who provide free or low-cost legal representation. Find an attorney ...

MORTGAGE LENDERS

The Home Loan Learning Center, provided by the Mortgage Bankers Association, offers information that you might find useful.

- Foreclosure Prevention Resource Center
- Contact info for a number of mortgage lenders

Your

mortgage lender may be able to assist you restructure the terms of your home mortgage if you are experiencing difficulty making your monthly payments. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, call your lender sooner rather than later.

FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE IN THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

These locally-based organizations can assist you in preventing and working through foreclosure. Note that some agencies charge for their services, some charge fees on a sliding scale, and some are free of charge. Before requesting assistance, please inquire as to the fee schedule.

- Eden Housing, Alameda County only: 925-449-7340 (Information services only)
- Consumer Credit Counseling, Concord: 866-889-9347
- HUD Resources: 1-800-569-4287
- Home Save Program, Oakland: 510-652-6622
- Neighborhood Housing Services, Richmond: 510-237-6459
- Pacific Community Services, Pittsburg/Fairfield: 925-439-1056
- Post-Purchase Homeownership Program, Richmond: 510-412-9290
- Lao Family Community Development, Oakland: 510-533-8850
- Mt. Diablo Housing Opportunity Center, Concord: 1-800-261-2298
- Tri Valley Housing Opportunity Center, Livermore: 925-373-3930 (Referrals to other organizations only)